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Our Children, Our Selves

Compiled by Yanki Tauber

Having children is an act of faith. Faith that the world is going somewhere good. Faith that in our children's lifetimes it will be a better place than it is now. How do we know this, when there's so much evidence to the contrary? We just do.

Having children is an act of trust. Trust in He who creates and sustains the world anew each moment of time, that He will provide what is needed to sustain one more partner to His grand plan. What couple could have a child if they first had to prove that they could "afford" it? If parenthood required a license, like for operating a motor vehicle or practicing law, who would pass the test? Yet somehow we know that if we bring a child into the world, G-d will provide the resources to nourish them body and soul. As He did for our parents, who were perhaps no worse, but most likely no better, equipped for the task than we.

Having children is a G-dly act. Who but G-d could say, "Let us make a man in our image, in our likeness," and then impart this same power to His creation?

Having children is a joy as deep as pain, an agony as exhilarating as pleasure. Someone once said that only after having a child of his own did he understand how G-d feels: what it's like to create a being who is an extension of your very self, with a will of its own -- a will that is free to turn against your will. What pain is there when your child turns against you! And what joy and satisfaction there is when he or she carries all that is precious to you -- your values, your vision, your dreams -- to the next generation and beyond, in new and unanticipatable ways.

Having children is the ultimate self-assertion. It says: I am, and I shall continue to be. Forever.

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by Jay Litvin

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by Chani Hadad



My Son's Short But Very Meaningful Life

by Schneur and Rachi Garb

Zahavah's Friend

by Tovia Bolton

Songs of Innocence

by Deena Yellin

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by Jay Litvin

A Mother Who Stayed Home

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told by Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveichik

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*See also:***Education: an Anthology**Rabbi Yaakov Leider's **Parenting Articles****COMPILED BY YANKI TAUBER**

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